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13 March 1996

INSPECTOR GENERAL

96-0384

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Allegations of Money Laundering and
Other Activities in Mena, Arkansas

1. Chairman Leach of the House Banking Committee wrote and requested that the Inspector General investigate various allegations of money laundering in connection with activities in and around Mena, Arkansas. I have told the Chairman your office would investigate the issues raised in his letter. I request that you issue a report, including an unclassified version, if possible, which will address the following core issues:

- What, if any, information does CIA have that indicates it had any contact with the individuals or businesses identified in the Chairman's letter of 8 February, or of money laundering, narcotics trafficking, arms smuggling, or other illegal activities (including illicit aircraft modifications) based at, or operating through, the airport at Mena, Arkansas, from 1980 to the present;
- What was the extent of CIA's contact or relationship with Adler Berriman "Barry" Seal;
- Whether CIA tried to directly or indirectly influence or request that the Department of Justice or other Federal agencies alter any investigations or prosecutions of money-laundering in or around Mena, Arkansas;
- Whether CIA, or anyone acting on CIA's behalf, has carried out any activities in Mena, Arkansas, or the area north of Mena, known as Nella, Arkansas, and if so, did CIA brief, or otherwise communicate this information to Arkansas state officials in the 1980s.

2. The Chairman has also requested that all related documents be made available to appropriate Committee staff. I will wait until your inquiry is completed before acting on this request since traditionally classified documents

171

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involving operational matters are provided only to our oversight committees, and I have shared this view with Chairman Leach.

4. Once you have an opportunity to review the Banking Committee request, please provide me with an estimate of when you will be able to produce a report, and I will provide that estimate to Chairman Leach.


John Deutch